

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-27 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 1, 12, 15, 16, and 23 are amended and claims 3, 19-22 and 24 are canceled. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-18, 23 and 25-27 will be pending in the present application.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the Specification indicating that "the inner insulated bladder" was identified on page 9, line 18 with reference numeral 30. The Specification has been amended so that the inner insulated bladder is identified with reference numeral 32. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Ohashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,414,241.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have each been amended to more clearly define the aspects of the present invention. In particular, claim 1 indicates that the moisture resistant insulation assembly comprises two or more water resistant layers that are fused together around the heating element to protect the heating element from moisture. Claim 12 has been amended to indicate that the self-contained fog resistant mirror includes a mirror, a heater pad, a frame, a battery power source and a water resistant electrical connection assembly.

While Ohashi et al. relates to the general concept of a fog resistant mirror, Ohashi et al. accomplishes this result in a very different manner than the present invention. Ohashi et al. mounts a plurality of heating discs on the mirror whereas the claimed invention attaches a heater pad to the mirror. The claimed invention also uses two or more water resistant layers that are fused together around the heating element to protect the heating element from moisture. In light of the disc-type system used by Ohashi et al. there would be no need to add such a feature to their fog resistant mirror.

Ohashi et al. also does not teach a self-contained fog resistant mirror as is defined in claim 12. Providing the fog resistant mirror with a self-contained configuration enables the fog resistant mirror to be used in areas where it is not possible to run the power wires through a wall. Using a self-contained configuration also enables the claimed invention to be readily moved to different locations such as on a vanity and in a shower.

In view of the foregoing, Ohashi et al. does not anticipate claims 1 and 12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Ohashi et al. and Duchateau et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,422,893. The Examiner relies on Duchateau et al. for disclosing the use of a mirror having a transparent substrate and a reflective coating.

Duchateau et al. does not address the distinctions set forth above with respect to the anticipation rejections. As such, claims 1 and 12 as well as claims 2 and 13, which depend from claims 1 and 12, are non-obvious when viewed in light of Ohashi et al. and Duchateau et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-5 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Ohashi et al., Kamis, U.S. Patent No. 4,665,281 and Bogdanov et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,959,622. The Examiner cites to Kamis for disclosing layers fused around a heating element. The Examiner cites to Bogdanov et al. for disclosing insulating layers made from silicone rubber.

As an initial point, it is noted that the wires used in Ohashi et al. are molded into the heating discs. As a result of this configuration there is no need to use any additional water resistant layers to cover these discs because water cannot access the ends of the wire as these ends are molded into the heating discs. For these reasons, there is no motivation to combine the references as proposed by the Examiner.

Furthermore, the secondary references cited by the Examiner have no relation to fog resistant bathroom mirrors. Kamis relates to oil wells while Bogdanov et al. relates to heating fluid containing pipes by wrapping a tape heater around the outside of the pipes. The Examiner has merely combined these unrelated references without any suggestion to make such a combination.

Additionally, neither Kamis nor Bogdanov et al. teaches using two or more water resistant layers that are fused around the heating element pad to protect the heating element pad from moisture in a fogless mirror. Based upon the preceding, claims 4-5 are non-obvious when viewed in light of the cited combination of references.

With respect to claims 14-16, none of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest a self-contained fog resistant mirror. As noted above, this configuration is particularly useful where it is not possible to run the wires through a wall. This configuration also permits the fog resistant mirror to be readily moved such as between a shower and a vanity. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-16 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 6-7 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Ohashi et al. and Motokawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,859,504. The Examiner cites to Motokawa et al. for disclosing bladders.

Motokawa et al. operates in a significantly different manner than the presently claimed invention. In particular, Motokawa et al. does not teach or suggest fabricating a fogless mirror having a moisture resistant insulation assembly that includes two or more water resistant layers that are fused together around the heating element to protect the heating element from moisture. Additionally, there is no suggestion to combine Motokawa et al. with Ohashi et al. as Motokawa et al. relates to an underwater fish tank heater whereas the present invention is directed to fogless heaters that are attached to mirrors. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-7 are respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 17-18, neither of the references cited by the Examiner teaches or suggests a self-contained fog resistant mirror. As noted above, this configuration is particularly useful where it is not possible to run the wires through a wall. This configuration also permits the fog resistant mirror to be readily moved such as between a shower and a vanity. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-18 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Ohashi et al. and Matson, U.S. Patent No. 6,147,333. The Examiner cites to Matson for disclosing the use of male and female connectors.

Claim 1 is distinguishable from Ohashi et al. for the reasons set forth above. Matson does not overcome these differences. As such, claim 8, which depends from claim 1 is non-obvious in light of these references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-10 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Ohashi et al. and Feldman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,380,981. The Examiner cites to Feldman et al. for disclosing the use of a transformer and a light switch with a fog resistant mirror.

Claim 1 is distinguishable from Ohashi et al. for the reasons set forth above. Feldman et al. does not overcome these differences. As such, claims 9-10, which depend from claim 1 is non-obvious in light of these references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Ohashi et al., Kamis and Spiller, U.S. Patent No. 6,036,333. The Examiner cites to Spiller as disclosing initiating and terminating connection between the power supply by a water faucet.

Spiller performs a very different function than the present invention. Spiller discloses placing a wheel in the path of the water to generate electricity to power a light bulb.

On the other hand, the present invention uses the flowing water to activate the fog resistant mirror. It would not be possible to generate a sufficient amount of power to operate the present invention using water flowing from a conventional faucet as is disclosed in Spiller.

Rather, in the present invention, it is only necessary to use the fog resistant mirror when water is flowing because the water generates the fog. Attaching the mirror to the faucet using the claimed invention eliminates the need for a user to remember to turn off the power when done with the faucet as the power is automatically turned off when the faucet is turned off.

In view of the foregoing, claims 11 and 27 are not obvious when viewed in light of the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

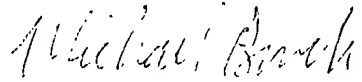
The Examiner rejected claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Ohashi, Kamis and Mischel, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,069. The Examiner cited to Mischel for disclosing installing a fogless mirror.

Independent claim 23 has been amended similar to independent claim 1, which is discussed above. Mischel does not address the deficiencies noted above with respect to Ohashi et al. and Kamis. Accordingly, claims 23 and 25-26 are non-obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23 and 25-26 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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